

Postage
Required

Redmond Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
Attn: Dawn Wood MS: CHFD
15670 NE 85th Street
PO Box 97010
Redmond, WA 98073-9710

(Fold here for mail return)

False Fire Alarm Problem

The Redmond Fire Department responded to 900 false alarms in 2004* within the City of Redmond.

- This constituted 54% of all fire engine responses of which 50% were preventable.
- Most false alarms were to commercial buildings.

Our response to false fire alarms:

- Repeatedly exposes the public and firefighters to unnecessary risk.
- Consumes too much of our valuable resources.

Reducing the occurrence of false fire alarms will:

- Increase our availability to deal with actual emergencies.
- Reduce safety risks to citizens and firefighters.

Reducing nuisance and false fire alarms in commercial buildings has become a top priority for the Redmond Fire Department.

*2004 City of Redmond estimate

***Our mission** is to continuously protect and preserve life and property through quality education, prevention, disaster preparedness, and rapid emergency response.*

Redmond Fire Department Fire Prevention Division

15670 NE 85th Street
PO Box 97010
Redmond, WA 98073-9710
fpdiv@redmond.gov
www.redmond.gov
(425) 556-2244
(425) 556-2272 Fax

**PREVENTABLE
FALSE
FIRE
ALARMS
WILL COST
YOU
\$304.90**



City of Redmond will charge
a **minimum of \$304.90**
for each preventable fire alarm
response beginning January 1, 2005

“There is always a potential for loss of life if firefighters are delayed in responding to an actual fire because they have been dispatched to a preventable fire alarm.”

Fire Marshal Bob Lovett

"Preventable Fire Alarm" Defined...

- Improper type, installation, sensitivity, or maintenance of automatic detectors.
- Improper installation (including unapproved or incompatible components) or maintenance of fire alarm systems including systems with no apparent reasons for repetitious alarms.
- Erroneous transmission of an alarm including the reporting of trouble signals by fire alarm monitoring companies.
- Work on a fire system or automatic extinguishing system connected to an alarm system when reasonable steps were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.
- Fire drills or tests of alarm or extinguishing systems when reasonable steps were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.
- Events including painting, welding, cleaning, cooking, dust producing or other activities which could activate a fire alarm detector.
- Smoke or fumes resulting from closed fireplace dampers, cooking activities, smoking of tobacco products, etc., including opening a door to a corridor equipped with detectors for the purpose of ventilating such smoke or fumes.

Explanation of Fees

The \$304.90 fee is for partial cost recovery of our response to your preventable alarm. In addition, it is designed to encourage proper care and maintenance of your fire protection systems.

Solving the Preventable Fire Alarm Problem

Your fire service maintenance companies have the expertise to eliminate many of these unwanted calls. The Redmond Fire Department encourages you to contact them when seeking assistance in eliminating preventable alarms.

The following tips are provided to assist you in eliminating your preventable fire alarms:

- Maintain your fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and other life protection systems using a qualified maintenance company. Redmond Fire Department Standards require a minimum of one visit per year.
- Perform a fire risk self assessment to:
 - identify potential fire and life safety issues that may affect your employees.
 - identify potential risks of false alarms.
 - provide you an opportunity to take preventative measures.
- Advise your service and maintenance company if you have a change of use or changes within the protected building. Such changes may affect your alarm system.
- Staff training and awareness of basic good housekeeping rules can assist with eliminating a common cause of false alarms -- human error.

The Fire Prevention staff at the Redmond Fire Department is available to discuss strategies to avoid preventable fire alarm calls. Site visits can be scheduled by calling Dawn Wood at (425) 556-2244.

Customer Feedback

☐ Please send additional information regarding preventing false fire alarms.

☐ I would like to attend a future Fire Department business customer information forum.

☐ Please add my e-mail address to your business customer distribution list:

E-mail

☐ I own a commercial building(s) in the City of Redmond:

Please provide the following information:

Business Name

Address

Contact Name

Daytime Phone

Evening Phone